QUEENSRYCHE / TESLA

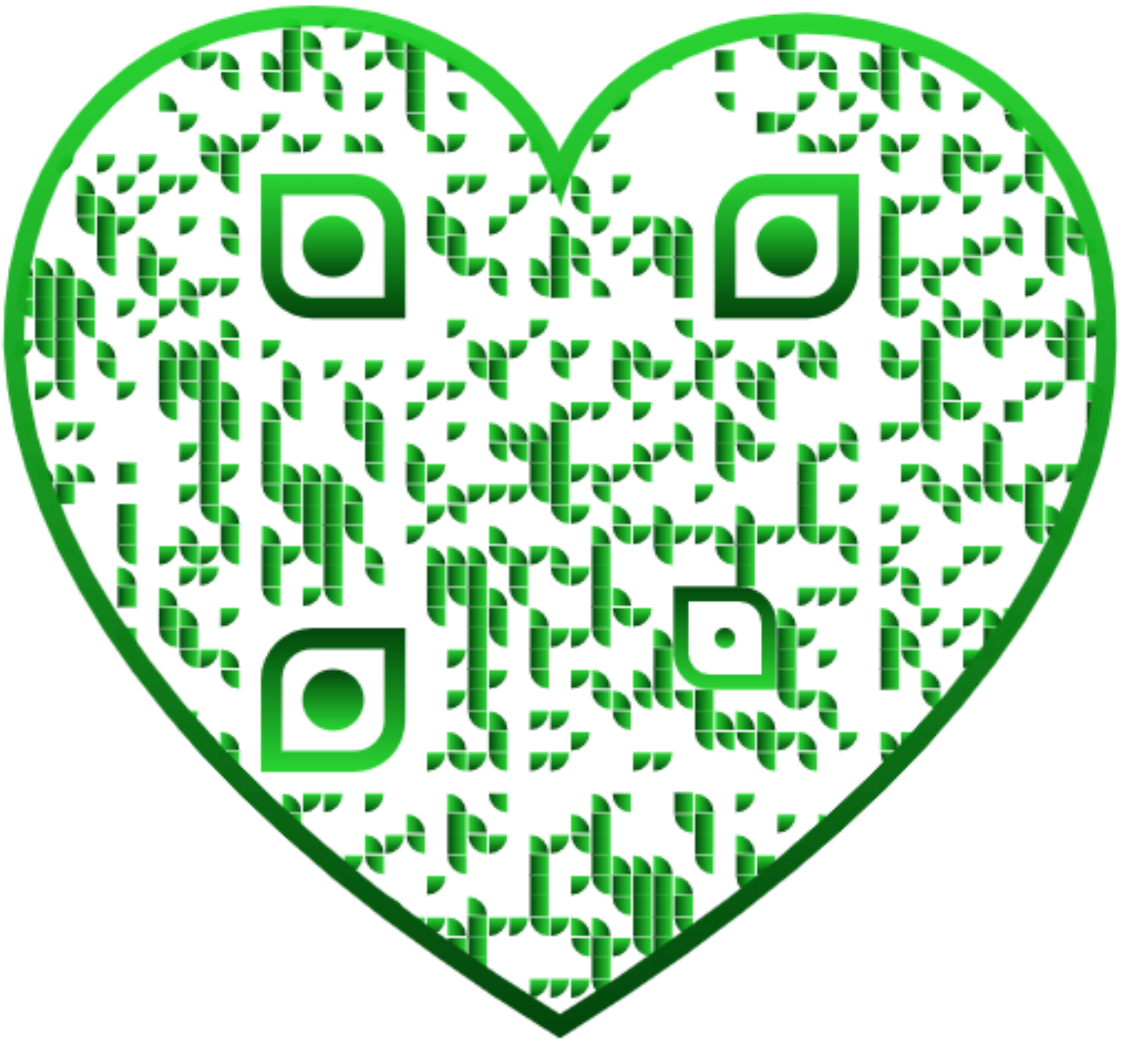
ROCK N ROLL COMICS

20
APRIL
$2.50

REVOLUTIONARY COMICS

UNAUTHORIZED AND PROUD OF IT.

QUEENSRYCHE



THIS IS AN UNAUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY!

I AM DOCTOR X AND I SAY... REBEL! ERADICATE THE FASCISTS, REVOLUTION WILL GROW! I SHALL USE THE MEDIA TO SPREAD THE WORD OF REBELLION, "OPERATION: MINDCRIME." THIS APTLY NAMED VEHICLE, REVOLUTIONARY COMICS, OFFERS ME THE CHANCE TO TELL YOU ABOUT MY OWN PERSONAL PROPHETS AND RADICAL PROPONENTS. THE ROCKERS KNOWN AS...

QUEENSRYCHE

MY PRIDE IN THESE INFLUENTIAL MUSICIANS KNOWS NO BOUNDS. THEY'VE TAKEN THE BANAL AND TEDIOUS REPETITION OF "ROCK BY NUMBER" HEAVY METAL AND ADDED COMPLEX LYRICS AND TONAL ELOQUENCE TO THE GENRE!

THEY SPREAD THE WORD OF REVOLUTION AND RAGE WHEN THEY TOLD *MY* STORY IN THEIR EPIC 1988 ROCK OPERA "OPERATION: MINDCRIME." NOW, LET ME TELL YOU *THEIR* STORY..."

THE SEED WAS SOWN IN JUNE 1978, AT A NONDESCRIPT INSTITUTE OF DOCILE INDOCTRINATION, INTERLAKE HIGH SCHOOL IN BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON. TWO ASPIRING GUITARISTS, CHRIS DEGARMO AND MIKE WILTON, MEET IN MUSIC CLASS AND FORM A RAGTAG BAND CALLED *JOKER*.

GREAT KEG PARTY, HEATHER! THOSE GUYS DO SOME KILLER PRIEST AND AC/DC.

GOIN' TO SIN CITY...

YEAH, EXCEPT FOR PAUL, THE FAT SINGER. HE MAKES MEATLOAF LOOK LIKE IGGY POP!

DESPITE THEIR OBESE AND OFT-PUTTING FRONTMAN, THE GROUP LANDS GIGS AT LOCAL HANGOUTS LIKE SCHOOL DANCES AND LAKE HILLS ROLLER RINK, THOUGH THE LEATHER LOOK AND SWARTHY HARD ROCK THEY SPECIALIZE IN SEEMS A LITTLE "DANGEROUS" TO CERTAIN PRUDES AND POWER BROKERS.

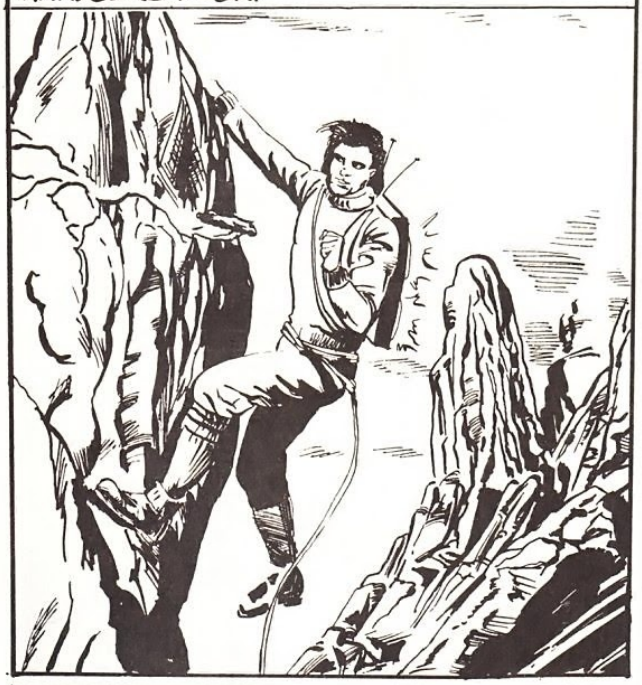
OUR STUDENT COMMITTEE LIKES YOUR TAPE. WE WOULD PREFER, HOWEVER, MUSIC MORE SUITABLE FOR *DANCING* FOR OUR JUNIOR HIGH SOCK HOP.

YOU MEAN BALLADS? WE COULD THROW IN A FEW AEROSMITH AND KISS SONGS...

SNICKER.

AUTHOR- JAY ALLEN SANFORD/ ARTIST- KEN LANDGRAF/
LETTERER- MARY KELLEHER/ EDITOR- TODD LOREN

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN, 19 YEAR OLD GEOFF TATE, TRANSPLANTED FROM THE ATOM-SCARRED PLAINS OF NEW MEXICO, HAS LIVED IN TACOMA SINCE 1973. BESIDES DEVELOPING A PASSION FOR MOUNTAIN CLIMBING, GEOFF (WITH HIS BARREL-BLASTING VOICE) SOON EVINCES AN INTENSE INTEREST IN *ANOTHER* FORM OF HARDCORE ROCK.



AT 20, GEOFF IS STUDYING ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE AT COLLEGE.

"MOONLIGHTING" IN THE EVENING, HE BECOMES A LOCAL SENSATION BY FRONTING A HEAVY-DECIBEL BAND KNOWN AS *TYRANT*.

TYRANT PLAYS AT THE LOCAL LAKE HILLS BANDWAGON BATTLE OF THE BANDS COMPETITION. SO DOES CHRIS AND MIKE'S LACONIC PARTY-MEISTER BAND, *JOKER*.

THOUGH JOKER LOSES THE COMPETITION IN THE FIRST ROUND, THE PROMOTER INVITES THEM TO OPEN FOR THE FINAL TWO-BAND BLOWOFF.
I CAN USE YOU GUYS NEXT TUESDAY... YOU DRAW A PRETTY GOOD CROWD.
AWWWRRIGHT!!
THE EAR-SPLITTING SHOWDOWN AT BELLEVUE ROLLER RINK IS BETWEEN GEOFF TATE'S AGGRESSIVE TYRANT AND THE LOCAL POP GROUP, RIDGE.
JOKER'S COVER-LADEN OPENING SET IS ECLIPSED BY THE HEAVY-SWEATING AND DARKLY ENTHUSIASTIC TYRANT.
YET THE CONSERVATIVE JUDGES CROWN RIDGE AS THE WINNERS. TYRANT'S LEADER/GUITARIST, IN A PIQUE OF TEMPER, DECLARES TYRANT DISBANDED -MUCH TO GEOFF'S DELIGHT.
BOY, THOSE GUYS IN JOKER SURE ROCKED HARD. I LIKED THE WAY THOSE TWO GUITARISTS TRADED LEAD LICKS.
AWW, FUCK THIS HORSESHIT.

JOKER HAS ALSO, ESSENTIALLY, SPLIT UP. CHRIS K IN A POWER TRIO (TEMPEST) MIKE EVENTUALLY MEETS DRUMMER SCOTT ROCKENFIELD AND BASSIST EDDIE JACKSON.
HEY, IRON MAIDEN! ALL RIGHT — DO YOU GUYS PLAY?
ETON
SHIT, YEAH! WHAT'RE YOU INTO?
IRON MAIDEN
IRON MAIDEN
AFTER SHARING SOME COMPARATIVE ROCK LORE, THEY DECIDE TO TRY JAMMING TOGETHER.
I KNOW ANOTHER GREAT GUITARIST, TOO. FRIEND OF MINE FROM JOKER, CHRIS DeGARMO.
IRON MAIDEN
COOL. CALL HIM DOWN.
CHRIS JOINS UP AND THE FOUR OF THEM, WITH ANOTHER TEMPORARY PICK-UP SINGER (EVIDENCING AN ACUTE SHORTAGE OF MICROPHONE-WORTHY ROCKERS IN WASHINGTON), AND THE GROUP STRUGGLES FOR A MONICKER.
HOW ABOUT "BAD STICKY ANT GAS"?
"KILLER BUNNIES"?
OH, MAN!
"BITE THE WAX TADPOLE"?
FINALLY SETTLING ON "CROSS + FIRE," THE FORMIDABLE QUINTET BECOMES A STAPLE ON THE LOCAL ROCK SCENE. FOUR OF THE FIVE PIECES ARE IN PLACE.

IN THE SUMMER OF 1981, CROSS+FIRE (CURRENTLY WITHOUT A VOCALIST) ARE INVITED TO PLAY A SHOWCASE ROCK FESTIVAL.
THEY WANT US TO BE ONE OF THE THREE HEADLINERS AT METALFEST!
AND YOU SAID YYEEEESSS?? WE DON'T EVEN HAVE A SINGER!
WHAT ABOUT THE SCREAMER WITH THE AWESOME VOICE, GEOFF TATE? THE ONE WITH BABYLON NOW?
THE ZEALOUS FOURSOME MEETS WITH GEOFF SHORTLY BEFORE THE FESTIVAL, WHERE EDDIE EXPRESSES HIS ADMIRATION FOR GEOFF'S PRODIGIOUS VOCAL PROWESS.
I DON'T THINK SO, MAN. BABYLON IS PLAYING THE SAME FESTIVAL!
BOY, IT'S TOO BAD YOU CAN'T SING WITH BOTH BANDS THAT NIGHT!
HMMM... ACTUALLY, WHO SAYS I CAN'T?! I WOULDN'T MIND SITTIN' IN A SET WITH YOU GUYS.

IMPULSIVELY CHANGING THEIR NAME TO *THE MOB* IMMEDIATELY BEFORE SHOWTIME, THE COMPLETED QUEENSRYCHE LINEUP CHURNS OUT A FRENETIC SET HIGHLIGHTED BY IRON MAIDEN AND JUDAS PRIEST TUNES.

I'M A WRATH-CHILD!

GEOFF LATER RETURNS TO THE STAGE WITH *BABYLON*, BUT THE ARTSY KING CRIMSON-STYLE MUSIC GETS NO POINTS FROM THE ROLLICKING CROWD.

THEY'RE WEARIN' SUITS, MAN! AND *WHAT* ARE THEY PLAYING?!?!

THOUGH BABYLON DISBANDS AFTER METALFEST, GEOFF ONLY PLAYS A FEW MORE SHOWS WITH THE MOB BEFORE AMICABLY PARTING TO JOIN ANOTHER FESTIVAL ACT, *MYTH*.

THESE GUYS ARE MORE INTO RAINBOW, DEEP PURPLE... IT'LL LET ME STRETCH MY VOICE.

NO SWEAT, GEOFF. WE UNDERSTAND. WE'RE JUST NOT INTO "DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS" MUSIC, I GUESS.

THE LOSS OF THEIR MOST PROMISING SINGER YET MERELY SERVES TO STRENGTHEN THE RESOLVE OF THE REMAINING FOUR. MIKE, EDDIE, CHRIS AND SCOTT BEGIN AN INTENSIVE PRACTICE REGIMEN AND COMMENCE COMPOSING NEW ALL-ORIGINAL MATERIAL.

C'MON, MIKE, THERE'S A KEG PARTY AT McCOOK'S!

SORRY, MAN, I GOTTA REHEARSE WITH THE BAND.

JEEZ, YOU GUYS SHOULD LIGHTEN UP A LITTLE.

NOT IF WE'RE GONNA MAKE IT, WE CAN'T...

TAKING AN OFFICIOUS APPROACH, THE BOYS ALL TAKE ON MENIAL JOBS IN ORDER TO SAVE UP ENOUGH MONEY TO MAKE A DEMO TAPE. MIKE, EDDIE AND SCOTT SLAVE AWAY ON AN ASSEMBLY LINE, WHILE CHRIS LABORS AT A HOSPITAL SERVING FOOD...
ZZZ
ZZZ
HERE'S YOUR MASHED POTATOES AND VEAL, MR. MISTRETTA...
HEY, GEOFF, WAIT UP!
LISTEN, WE KNOW YOU'RE STILL WITH MYTH, BUT COULD WE TALK YOU INTO SITTING IN ON A FEW TRACKS FOR A DEMO WE'RE DOING? WE'VE BOOKED STUDIO TIME NEXT WEEK...
NOT ONE TO PASS UP A CHANCE TO RECORD IN A PROFESSIONAL STUDIO, GEOFF ENTHUSIASTICALLY AGREES... MUCH TO THE CONSTERNATION OF THE MEMBERS OF MYTH. THE FINAL PIECE IS IN PLACE.
!!
!!
NO, REALLY, I'LL BE RIGHT BACK! HONEST, NO KIDDING!
!!

THOSE EARLY SESSIONS LEAD TO A FAIRLY FORMULAIC, THOUGH ENERGETIC, E.P. "NIGHT-RIDER" AND "QUEEN OF THE REICH" ARE HIGH-LIGHTS, AND GEOFF CO-WRITES "THE LADY WORE BLACK" (SURPRISING THE SOUND ENGINEER WITH AN ODD REQUEST ON THE DAY OF THE TAPING).

HE ORDERED ME TO TURN OUT THE LIGHTS AND BURN A SINGLE CANDLE TO GET HIM "IN THE MOOD."

I'M GONNA MAKE SURE WE HAVE SOME GARLIC AND A WOODEN STAKE HANDY...

FABULOSO, MAN, YOU GOT SOME KILLER PIPES!

I KNOW THAT... SO WHY AM I STILL PLAYING METALFESTS AND DIVES?

THE FINISHED E.P. DOES NOT GET PICKED UP BY ANY LABELS FOR NEARLY A YEAR, A PROBLEM WHICH DISCOURAGES THE MOB. ACROSS TOWN, GEOFF IS TEARING UP THE CLUBS WITH MYTH. AT THE END ZONE, IN SEATTLE, MEMBERS OF DEF LEPPARD COMPLIMENT GEOFF'S SONIC AEROBICS.

MEANWHILE, THE DESOLATE MOB HAVE TURNED UP AN "ACE IN THE HOLE," SCOTT'S BROTHER, TODD ROCKENFIELD. TODD HAS CANNILY GOTTEN THE DEMO INTO THE HANDS OF TWO LOCAL MANAGERS, KIM AND DIANA HARRIS. THE COUPLE OWNS EAST STREET RECORDS AND ARE BLOWN AWAY BY THE TAPE.

MOB

THESE GUYS ARE RADICAL! LOUD, NASTY! I LOVE IT! (WHAT'S THEIR NAME?)

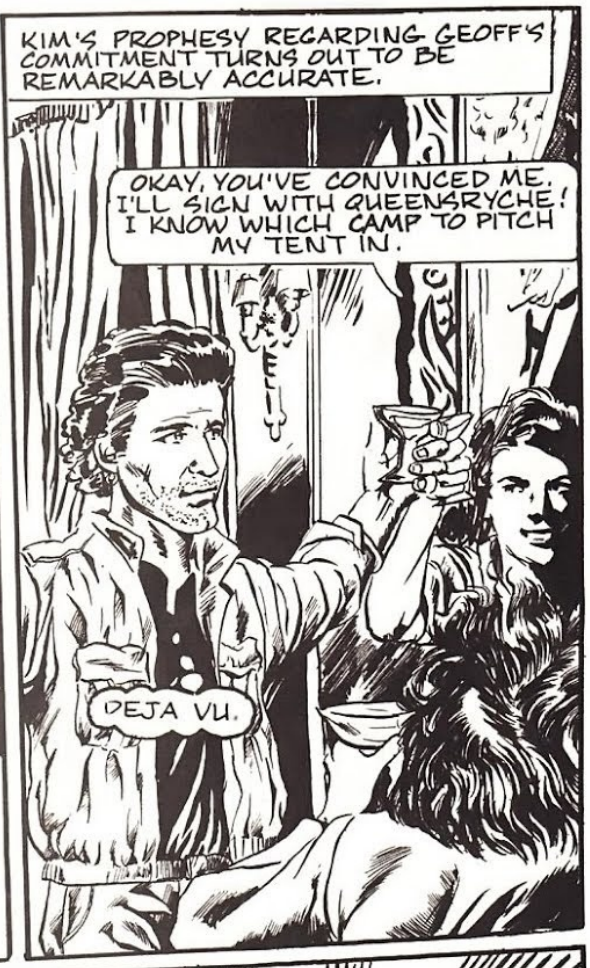
ME, TOO! (WHO?)

SMOOTHER THAN MILK OF MAGNESIA, THE CHARISMATIC COUPLE CONVINCE THE MOB TO SIGN THEM ON AS MANAGERS.

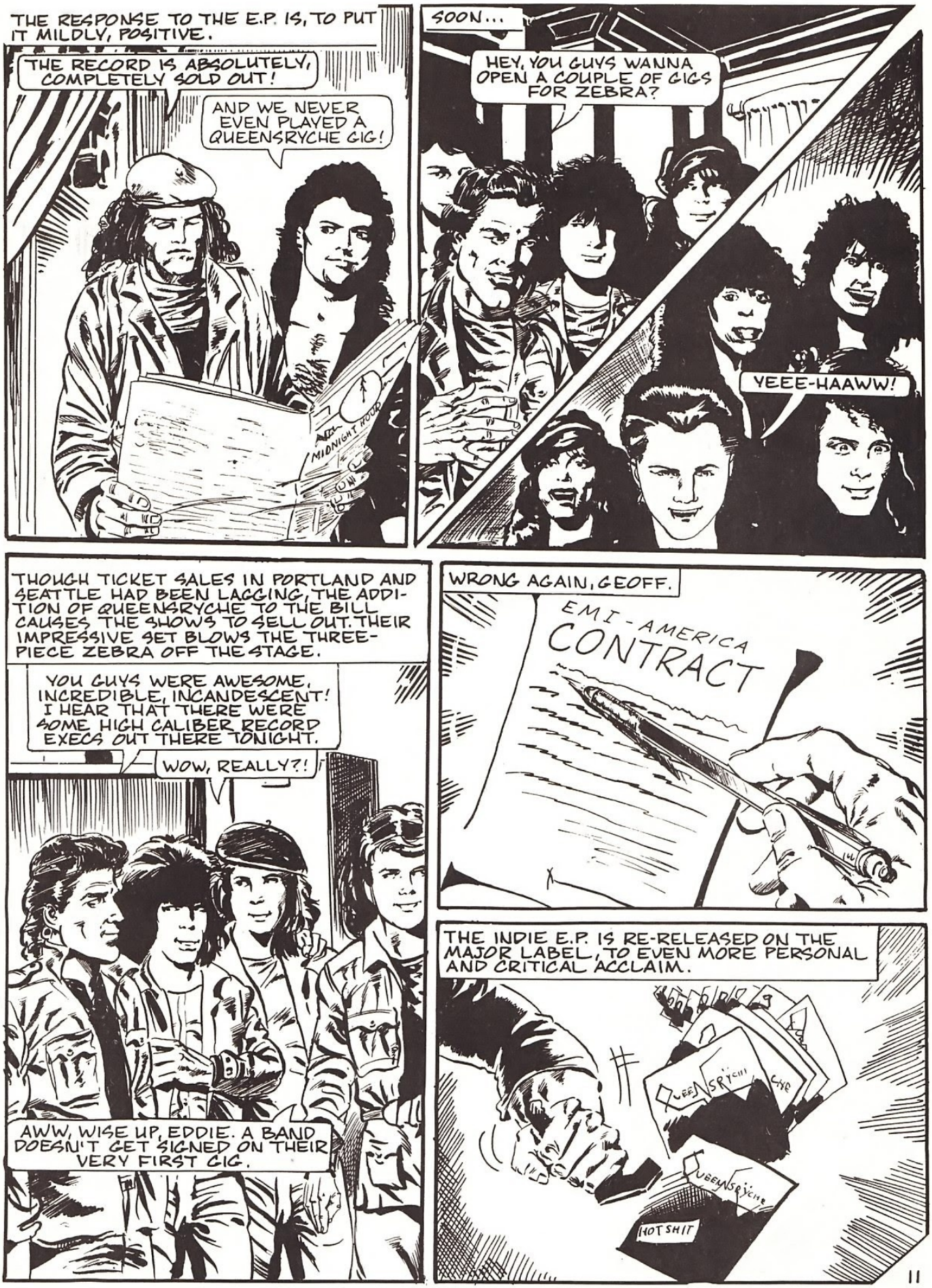
YOU KNOW, WE SHOULD TELL YOU THAT WE DON'T HAVE THAT SINGER ANYMORE.

WHO, GEOFF? HE'S STILL IN MYTH? DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT... WHEN THIS DEMO SELLS, AND IT'S GONNA SELL BIG, HE'LL KNOW WHICH CAMP TO PITCH HIS TENT IN!

CONVINCED BY THEIR MANAGERS THAT A NAME CHANGE IS IN ORDER, THEY TAKE THEIR NEW APPELLATION FROM THE TITLE "QUEEN OF THE REICH" ON THAT FIRST FATEFUL DEMO.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, QUEENSRYCHE!
GEOFF, STILL FEIGNING A HALF-HEARTED COMMITMENT TO MYTH, JOINS IN THE MOB'S PUBLICITY PHOTO SESSION.
SAY "TOE CHEESE"..
EXCITED, OUR ERSTWHILE IMPRESARIO, KIM, TAKES THE DEMO AND PHOTO TO PAUL SUTHER, A WRITER FOR AN INFLUENTIAL METAL RAG.
THESE GUYS ARE GONNA SHIT LOBSTERS WHEN THEY GET AN EAR-LOAD OF THIS!
KERRANG MAGAZINE
KERRANG GIVES THE UNSIGNED BAND UNPRECEDENTED COVERAGE AND AWARDS THEM THE COVETED "FIVE KKKKK" RATING.
QUEENSRYCHE: KKKKK... LOCAL PHENOMENON... INDEPENDENT EP... FABULOUS BAND...



THE TIMING OF THE RELEASE IS PROPITIOUS. THAT PERIOD MARKS THE RE-EMERGENCE OF HARD ROCK RADIO. NATIONWIDE, FM STATIONS ARE REMARKABLY RECEPTIVE TO "QUEEN OF THE RYCHE" AND "THE LADY WORE BLACK," AND PLAY THE CUTS ALONGSIDE DEF LEPPARD, QUIET RIOT AND MOTLEY CRUE.


THE RESPONSE TO THE E.P. IS, TO PUT IT MILDLY, POSITIVE.
THE RECORD IS ABSOLUTELY, COMPLETELY SOLD OUT!
AND WE NEVER EVEN PLAYED A QUEENSRYCHE GIG!
SOON...
HEY, YOU GUYS WANNA OPEN A COUPLE OF GIGS FOR ZEBRA?
YEEE-HAAWW!
THOUGH TICKET SALES IN PORTLAND AND SEATTLE HAD BEEN LAGGING, THE ADDITION OF QUEENSRYCHE TO THE BILL CAUSES THE SHOWS TO SELL OUT. THEIR IMPRESSIVE SET BLOWS THE THREE-PIECE ZEBRA OFF THE STAGE.
YOU GUYS WERE AWESOME, INCREDIBLE, INCANDESCENT! I HEAR THAT THERE WERE SOME HIGH CALIBER RECORD EXECS OUT THERE TONIGHT.
WOW, REALLY?!
AWW, WISE UP, EDDIE. A BAND DOESN'T GET SIGNED ON THEIR VERY FIRST GIG.
WRONG AGAIN, GEOFF.
EMI-AMERICA CONTRACT
THE INDIE E.P. IS RE-RELEASED ON THE MAJOR LABEL, TO EVEN MORE PERSONAL AND CRITICAL ACCLAIM.
HOT SHIT

THE RECORD DOES WELL, THOUGH SALES *REALLY* GO THROUGH THE ROOF WHEN MTV BEGINS SHOWING THE "QUEEN OF THE REICH" VIDEO.
YOU GUYS ARE GONNA GO TO BATON ROUGE.
WHAT, ANOTHER ROLLER RINK OPENING?
NOPE, YOU'RE OPENING AN ARENA SHOW FOR QUIET RIOT!
IN THE FOLLOWING MONTHS, THEY ALSO WARM UP FOR TWISTED SISTER AND DIO (AH, THE LEXICON OF 80'S METAL).
YOU GUYS ARE GONNA GO FAR AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THAT SINGER.
THANKS, MAN, YOU CAN NAIL A NOTE OR TWO YOURSELF!
FINALLY, THE RECORD COMPANY SAYS THAT THE BAND IS READY TO ENTER THE STUDIO.
GOD, I'M *SO* TIRED. I'M NOT SURE I'M UP TO RECORDING.
BESIDES, WHO'D PRODUCE?
BELIEVE IT OR NOT, PAUL STANLEY CALLED UP AND SAID HE'S INTERESTED.
"I DON'T KNOW... I *LOVE* KISS, BUT I CAN'T SEE US GOING IN THAT DIRECTION. MUSICALLY, WE'VE GOT MORE IN COMMON WITH PROGRESSIVE ROCKERS LIKE PINK FLOYD.
OKAY, EMI SUGGESTED GOING TO ABBEY ROAD WITH JIM GUTHRIE!

AT THE LEGENDARY SOUND LAB, CERTAIN STELLAR LUMINARIES HEAR THE BUZZ ABOUT QUEENSRYCHE AND DROP BY THE STUDIO TO LEND AN EAR.
SO, JIMMY, REALLY... LED ZEP HAS A PRETTY, ER, WILD REPUTATION! WHAT WAS THE KINKIEST THING YOU EVER DID?
SORRY, MIKE, I DON'T MEAN TO INTERRUPT, BUT DAVID BOWIE IS ON HIS WAY UP TO SAY "HIGH."
YOU SHOULD SAVE THAT QUESTION FOR THIS GUY... JUST DON'T MENTION MICK JAGGER!
IN AUGUST 1984, QUEENSRYCHE IS OFF TO PLAY BUDOKAN, JAPAN, WHERE THE CROWDS GO BERSERK AND THE TRIUMPHANT PERFORMANCES ARE VIDEOTAPED.
WE SEE THE LIGHT OF THOSE WHO FIND...

SEPTEMBER 1984: THE FIRST OFFICIAL LP, "THE WARNING," HITS THE STREETS. THE MUSIC IS HARD AND LOUD, BUT THE CONCEPTUAL LYRICS INVOLVE WORLD DOMINATION, INSANE COMPUTERS AND KILLER SCI-FI COPS!

HEY, WE'RE THE COVER STORY THIS MONTH!

SOON THEY'RE WINGING THEIR WAY TO EUROPE TO OPEN MORE SHOWS FOR THEIR NEWEST FAN, RONNIE JAMES DIO.

VOT IST DIS BAND NAME, HMMMM? "QUEENSRYCHE"? ISS DAT SUM HOMO-SEXUAL JOKE ON US OR VAT?!

ON THE VIDEO FRONT, MTV IS RUNNING "TAKE HOLD OF THE FLAME," AND THE TOKYO CONCERT IS OUT IN VIDEO SHOPS.

ONE THING ABOUT JAPAN... YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE THE WAY THOSE GUYS PRONOUNCE OUR NAME!

IN FEBRUARY 1985, KISS HAS THEM JOIN THEIR "LICK IT UP" TOUR, BUT IT'S DURING A FIVE-NIGHT STAND AT NY'S RADIO CITY (BACKING UP IRON MAIDEN) THAT QUEENSRYCHE COMES TO THE REALIZATION THAT KIM AND DIANA, THEIR MANAGERS, MIGHT JUST BE HOLDING THEM BACK.

LISTEN, YOU SHOULD JOIN *OUR* STABLE! WE CAN GET YOU TEN TIMES MORE EXPOSURE AND PRESS, A HEADLINE TOUR...

WELL, KIM AND DIANA MIGHT NOT BE AS SAVVY AS YOU GUYS, BUT THEY HAVE GOTTEN US THIS FAR!

BY THE END OF 1985, THE BOYS ARE CHOMPING AT THE BIT TO GET BACK INTO THE STUDIO. THE HEAVY PRESS COVERAGE CONTINUES UNABATED.
WELL, WE DON'T WANNA BE TOO STEREOTYPED AS A "METAL" BAND.. WE'RE GONNA FLEX OUR MUSICAL MUSCLES A BIT.
SO, WHAT'S THE NEW ALBUM GOING TO BE LIKE?
THE ENSUING RECORD, "RAGE FOR ORDER," IS AN ABOUT-FACE FOR QUEENSRYCHE, BOTH IN TERMS OF MUSIC AND IMAGE...
HOWEVER, THE HEAVY MAKEUP GLAM LOOK AND TECHNO-SYNTH SOUND ALIENATES MANY OR FANS. THE MUSIC SOUNDS RUSHED AND HALF-HEARTED, AND THE ALBUM'S SALES ARE SLOW.
FORGING AHEAD, THEY LEAP INTO AN AC/DC TOUR (TOTING ELECTRONIC DRUMS AND A BACKUP KEYBOARDIST) AND RELEASE AN MTV PROMO. THE VIDEO DIES QUICKLY AND THE SINGLE LIKEWISE STIFFS.
I'M GONNA GET CLOSE TO YOU...
JEEZ, EVEN THE NEW VIDEO SUCKS!
TO CAP OFF THEIR TRIBULATIONS, THE GROUP MUST FIRE LONGTIME MANAGERS, KIM AND DIANA.
Y'KNOW, CHRIS, WE COULD PROBABLY OVERLOOK THE DRUGS, BUT THE FINANCIAL RECORDS ARE COMPLETELY FUCKED!
I'LL PICK UP THE BOOKING FOR THE REST OF THE TOUR, BUT THERE'S NO WAY I CAN COVER FOR THEM AFTER THAT.

THE BAND IS UNDERSTANDABLY DESPONDENT OVER THE LACK OF RECORD SALES AND THEIR SHAKY FINANCIAL STATUS (DUE TO DEBTS INCURRED BY MANAGEMENT).

LISTEN, THINGS AREN'T THAT BAD. MANAGEMENT OFFERS ARE COMING IN FROM EVERYWHERE! EVER HEAR OF Q-PRIME?

YEAH? THEY CARRY DOKKEN AND METALLICA, DON'T THEY?

SIGNING WITH Q-PRIME, THE BOYS MAKE AN IMPORTANT DECISION.

FUCK GLAM! WE'RE GOING BACK TO HARDCORE ROCK!

THANK GOD... I *HATE* MOUSSE!

AS OFTEN HAPPENS IN TIMES OF ADVERSITY, THE GROUP FINDS DYNAMIC INSPIRATION IN THE BLEAK SITUATION. SPURRED ON BY TIMELY REPORTS OF VARIOUS TV EVANGELISTS ENGAGING IN NAUGHTY ACTS, THEY BEGIN BRAINSTORMING THEIR NEXT LP, "OPERATION: MINDCRIME." FRIENDS ARE SKEPTICAL.

I WANT ACTORS, SOUND EFFECTS, A LIBRETTO... LIKE PINK FLOYD'S "THE WALL."

UGGH - SOUNDS MORE LIKE STYX'S "KILROY WAS HERE."

THE CONCEPT OF THE ALBUM INVOLVES AN IDEALIST MEGALOMANIAC (MYSELF, DR. X), A YOUNG BOY IN A MENTAL HOSPITAL (NIKKI) AND A NUN NAMED SISTER MARY. CERTAIN PARTS ARE PLAYED BY OTHERS, AND THE RECORD IS FULL OF AMBIENT BACKGROUND SOUND AND DIALOGUE.

GIVE ME ONE MORE VEIN...

I FEEL THE FLOW, THE BLESSED STAIN...

TONY VALENTINE PAMELA MOORE

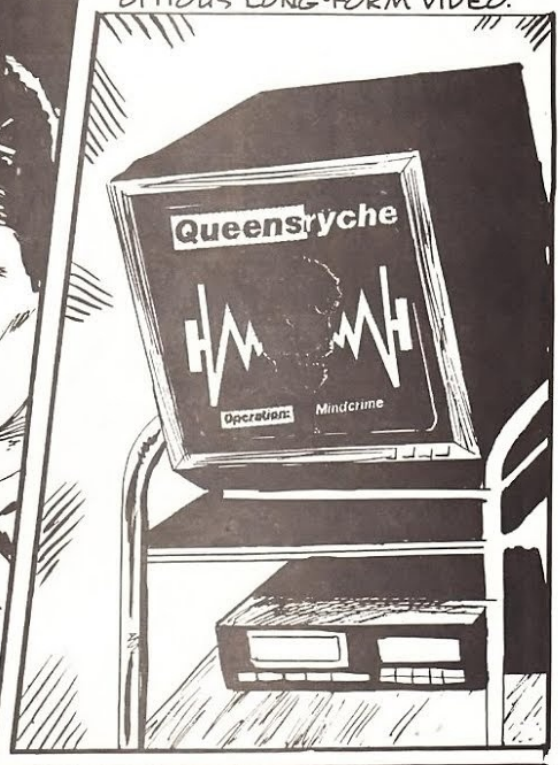
(A)

THE COMPLEX STORY AND CHARACTERS CONSTITUTE A RADICAL MOVE FOR QUEENSRYCHE. BY THE LATE EIGHTIES, THE CONCEPT ALBUM IS ALL BUT EXTINCT. RECORDING IN CANADA AND ELSEWHERE, THEY RECRUIT RUSH PRODUCER PETER COLLINS.
WE'LL BURN THE WHITE HOUSE DOWN...
GOOD LORD, IT'S 3A.M.!
AND GEOFF IS JUST GETTING UP STEAM. HE LOOSENS UP HIS VOICE AFTER DARK... I NEVER SEE HIM IN THE DAY.
AM I WEARING MY CROSS?
THE ANGST-RIDDEN ROCK OPERA, WITH ITS REVOLUTIONARY RHETORIC DIRECTED AT ALL MEDIA HOUNDS AND TELEVANGELISTS WHO SWINDLE THE GULLIBLE, IS RELEASED IN APRIL 1985.
LISTEN WITH THE HEADPHONES ON... IT'S A RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE!
Queensryche
JUDGING FROM THE LYRICS, IT'S AN ANTI-RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE! THEY KILL THIS PRIEST!
QR PERFORMS THE DIFFICULT PIECE IN ITS ENTIRETY (SOMETIMES OMITTING THE TEN-MINUTE "SUITE SISTER MARY") WHILE ON TOUR IN EUROPE WITH DEF LEPPARD.
STRAIT JACKET MEMORIES, SEDATIVE HIGHS...
SPLITTING A BILL WITH QR IN AMERICA, METALLICA IS INSPIRED BY QUEENSRYCHE'S PROGRESSIVE MUSICAL AUDACITY AND POWERFUL, MEANINGFUL LYRICS.
EVER SEE A MOVIE CALLED "JOHNNY GOT HIS GUN"?

THE CHARACTER OF SISTER MARY, A FORMER PROSTITUTE-CUM-REVOLUTIONARY, IS INSPIRED BY AN INCIDENT FROM THAT FIRST EUROPEAN TOUR.

THERE WAS THIS NUN, DANCING IN A SWEATY PUNK DISCO CLUB IN AMSTERDAM. FIVE A.M., BLUE LIGHTS, THICK SMOKE, AND SHE'S DANCING IN SLOW, HYPNOTIC CIRCLES AND HOLDING A STUFFED PANDA. REALLY SURREAL, Y'KNOW?!

NO DOUBT INFLUENCED BY SUCH ALL-MUSICAL ROCK EPICS AS THE "TOMMY" FILM, THE GROUP SHOOTS AN AMBITIOUS LONG-FORM VIDEO.



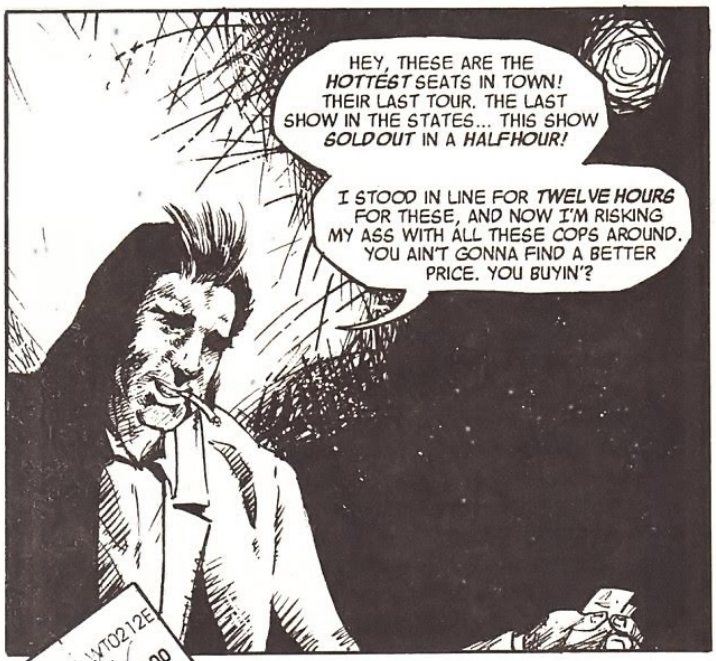
IN JANUARY 1989, "EYES OF A STRANGER" TURNS UP IN HEAVY ROTATION ON MTV. SOON, QR IS INVITED TO HOST HEADBANGER'S BALL, AN EVENT WHICH COINCIDES WITH THEIR SPOOKY "SPEAK THE WORD" VIDEO RELEASE (A PERSONAL FAVORITE OF MINE - I *STAR* IN IT!).

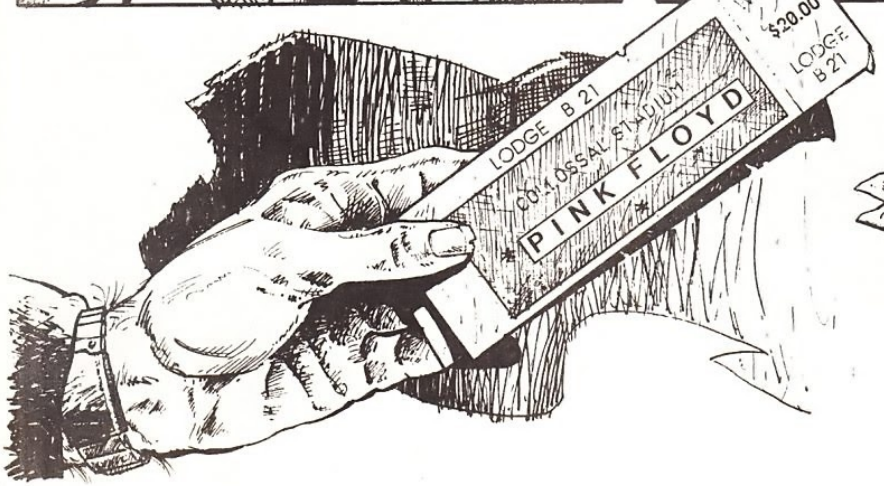
BY THEN, OPERATION: MINDCRIME IS A PLATINUM ALBUM WITH OVER 500,000 COPIES SOLD.

1989 IS A PROLIFIC YEAR FOR THE BAND...
QUEENSRYCHE
HEAVY ROTATION
MTV
NIGHT TRACKS
TODAY
8:00P
QUEENSRYCHE ARE ENTERING THE 90'S ON AN UNPRECEDENTED GROUNDSWELL OF POPULARITY. THOUGH INVITED ON NUMEROUS HOT SUMMER TOURS, THE DEDICATED WORKAHOLIC ROCKERS INSTEAD OPT TO RETURN TO THE WOMB OF THE STUDIO TO CONCEIVE THEIR NEXT ALBUM.
I'M A LITTLE LEERY ABOUT FOLLOWING UP "MINDCRIME" WITH ANOTHER CONCEPT RECORD.
THEN SCRAP IT! WE'LL JUST GO BACK TO THE STYLE WE HAD ON "THE WARNING"... BASIC BANGERS WITH OUR "NEW" SOUND INTEGRATED INTO THE MIX, TO BEEF IT UP! WE'RE TEN TIMES BETTER AT PLAYING AND WRITING NOW!
QUOTABLE QUOTE:
"TOO MUCH MUSIC TODAY DOESN'T DIG FOR ANY EMOTION, EXCEPT TO BE PLEASING TO THE EAR!". GEOFF TATE
NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: WE TAKE NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR, AND DO NOT NECESSARILY CONCUR WITH, DR. X'S RADICAL IDEOLOGY. HE'S A LITTLE WHACKO (PLAY THE ALBUM IF YOU DOUBT US). WE JUST HOPE THE NEW ALBUM ROCKS!

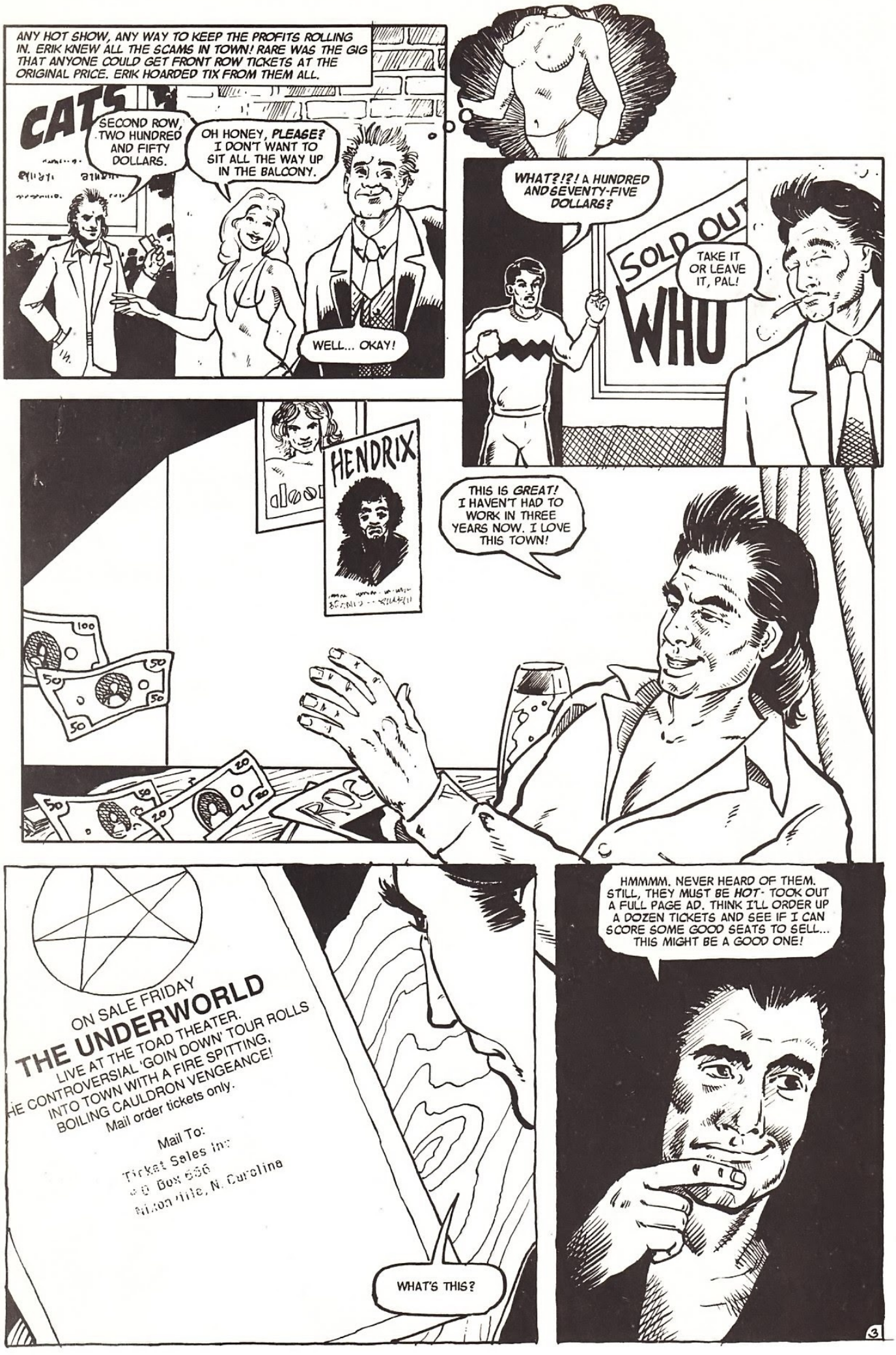
ERIK BRICKMAN DIDN'T MIND WHAT PEOPLE THOUGHT OF HIM. HE DIDN'T CARE ABOUT THE VILE EPITHETS TOSSED TOWARDS HIM AS HE STOOD OUTSIDE THE CLUBS AND STADIUMS AND SPORTS ARENAS PLYING HIS ILLICIT TRADE. THERE WAS ALWAYS SOMEBODY WILLING TO PAY HIS EXORBITANT FEE IN ORDER TO PICK UP A...

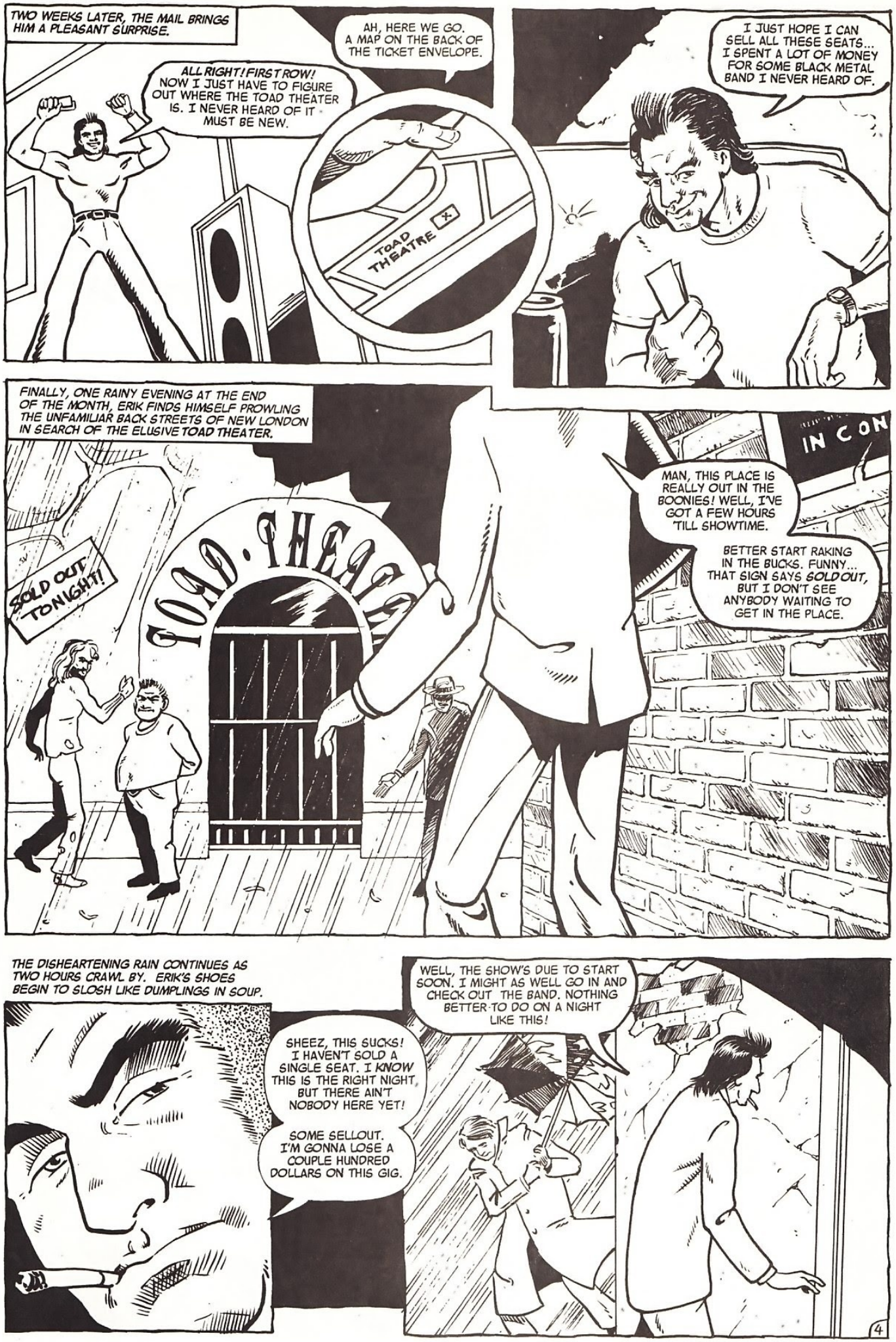
TICKET TO RIDE!



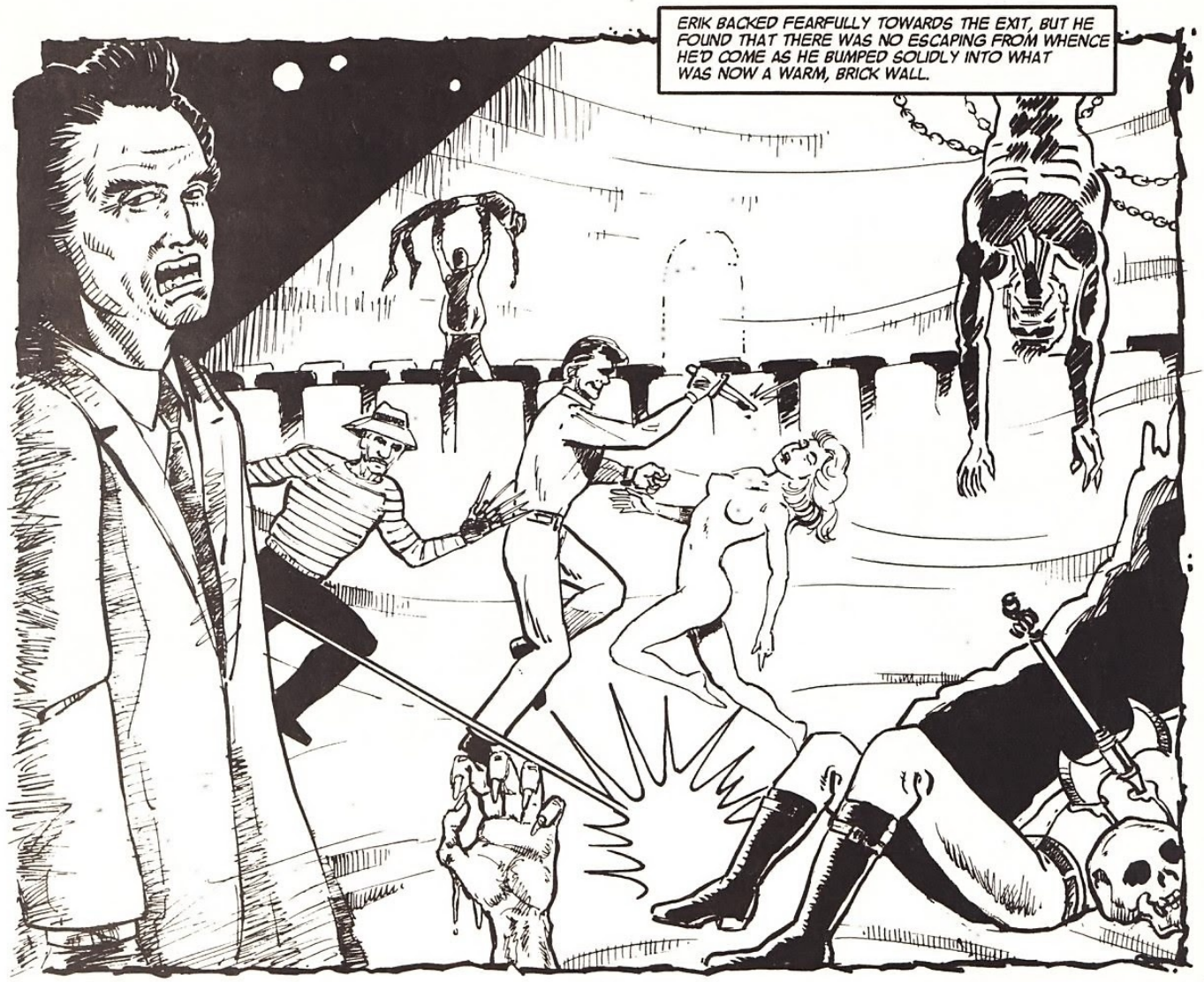


SUPPLY AND DEMAND, AND ERIK NEVER RAN SHORT OF SUPPLY. THERE ARE LOTS OF WAYS TO CORNER THE MARKET FOR PRIME TIME SEATS ON THE FIRST DAY THAT TICKETS GO ON SALE...
MONDAY...
WHADDAYA MAKE HERE, FIVE BUCKS AN HOUR? I USED TO WORK FOR OLD TICKETMONSTER, I KNOW THE PAY SUCKS. TELL YOU WHAT... HOLD THE FIRST TWENTY TICKETS OFF THE COMPUTER FOR ME, AND THERE'LL BE AN EXTRA HUNDRED BUCKS FOR YOU!
ON SALE HERE
TUESDAY...
I SEE YOU GOT THE FRONT&POT IN LINE. LISTEN, PICK ME UP A FEW EXTRA TICKETS AND I'LL GIVE YOU A HUNDRED DOLLARS. THAT WAY, YOU'R OWN TICKETS DON'T COST YOU ANYTHING.
WELL, OKAY...
WEDNESDAY...
FIFTY BUCKS FOR EVERY FLOOR SEAT YOU GET ME!!
ROLLING STONES
OPEN 10AM
THURSDAY...
FATHER, I HEAR YOU AND THE SISTERS ARE GIVING TICKETS TO THE POOR SO THEY CAN SEE THE POPE WHEN HE COMES TO TOWN. I... I'D SURE LIKE TO GO...
FRIDAY...
SEE THE POPE! SEVENTY-FIVE BUCKS!
2


ANY HOT SHOW, ANY WAY TO KEEP THE PROFITS ROLLING IN. ERIK KNEW ALL THE SCAMS IN TOWN! RARE WAS THE GIG THAT ANYONE COULD GET FRONT ROW TICKETS AT THE ORIGINAL PRICE. ERIK HOARDED TIX FROM THEM ALL.
CATS
SECOND ROW, TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS.
OH HONEY, PLEASE? I DON'T WANT TO SIT ALL THE WAY UP IN THE BALCONY.
WELL... OKAY!
WHAT?!?! A HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS?
SOLD OUT
WHO
TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT, PAL!
HENDRIX
THIS IS GREAT! I HAVEN'T HAD TO WORK IN THREE YEARS NOW. I LOVE THIS TOWN!
ON SALE FRIDAY
THE UNDERWORLD
LIVE AT THE TOAD THEATER.
HE CONTROVERSIAL 'GOIN DOWN' TOUR ROLLS INTO TOWN WITH A FIRE SPITTING, BOILING CAULDRON VENGEANCE!
Mail order tickets only.
Mail To:
Ticket Sales Inc
P.O. Box 666
Nixonville, N. Carolina
WHAT'S THIS?
HMMMM. NEVER HEARD OF THEM. STILL, THEY MUST BE HOT- TOOK OUT A FULL PAGE AD. THINK I'LL ORDER UP A DOZEN TICKETS AND SEE IF I CAN SCORE SOME GOOD SEATS TO SELL... THIS MIGHT BE A GOOD ONE!
3


TWO WEEKS LATER, THE MAIL BRINGS HIM A PLEASANT SURPRISE.
AH, HERE WE GO. A MAP ON THE BACK OF THE TICKET ENVELOPE.
ALL RIGHT! FIRST ROW! NOW I JUST HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHERE THE TOAD THEATER IS. I NEVER HEARD OF IT - MUST BE NEW.
TOAD THEATRE
I JUST HOPE I CAN SELL ALL THESE SEATS... I SPENT A LOT OF MONEY FOR SOME BLACK METAL BAND I NEVER HEARD OF.
FINALLY, ONE RAINY EVENING AT THE END OF THE MONTH, ERIK FINDS HIMSELF PROWLING THE UNFAMILIAR BACK STREETS OF NEW LONDON IN SEARCH OF THE ELUSIVE TOAD THEATER.
SOLD OUT TONIGHT!
TOAD THEATRE
IN CON
MAN, THIS PLACE IS REALLY OUT IN THE BOONIES! WELL, I'VE GOT A FEW HOURS 'TILL SHOWTIME.
BETTER START RAKING IN THE BUCKS. FUNNY... THAT SIGN SAYS SOLD OUT, BUT I DON'T SEE ANYBODY WAITING TO GET IN THE PLACE.
THE DISHEARTENING RAIN CONTINUES AS TWO HOURS CRAWL BY. ERIK'S SHOES BEGIN TO SLOSH LIKE DUMPLINGS IN SOUP.
SHEEZ, THIS SUCKS! I HAVEN'T SOLD A SINGLE SEAT. I KNOW THIS IS THE RIGHT NIGHT, BUT THERE AIN'T NOBODY HERE YET!
SOME SELLOUT. I'M GONNA LOSE A COUPLE HUNDRED DOLLARS ON THIS GIG.
WELL, THE SHOW'S DUE TO START SOON. I MIGHT AS WELL GO IN AND CHECK OUT THE BAND. NOTHING BETTER TO DO ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS!
4

LOOK AT THIS CROWD! I DIDN'T SEE ANY OF THESE GUYS OUTSIDE. WOTTA BUNCH OF GEEKS! THAT GUY BY THE BATHROOM DOOR LOOKS JUST LIKE CHARLIE MANSON. AND, HEY, THAT OTHER DUDE IS COPPING A HITLER LOOK! FUCKIN' WILD...
HEY, AMAZING! THAT OLD GUY LOOKS JUST LIKE... IDI AMEN! WEIRD...
INDEED, THERE WAS WEIRDNESS ALL ABOUT THE TOAD THEATER. AS ERIK ENTERED THE MAIN CONCERT HALL...
OMIGOD! THAT KID JUST GOT STABBED! AND NOBODY'S EVEN LOOKING... THEY'RE ALL IGNORING IT!
AN UNBELIEVABLE AND HORRID SCENE OF VIOLENCE AND TERROR GREETED ERIK EVERYWHERE HE LOOKED, LIKE SOME TWISTED BOSCH TABLEAU. HIS SPINE BEGAN TO JELLIFY.
THIS IS INSANE! I... I'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF THIS MADHOUSE! I... I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING!


ERIK BACKED FEARFULLY TOWARDS THE EXIT, BUT HE FOUND THAT THERE WAS NO ESCAPING FROM WHENCE HE'D COME AS HE BUMPED SOLIDLY INTO WHAT WAS NOW A WARM, BRICK WALL.

HE BEGAN TO PERSPIRE EVEN HEAVIER THAN USUAL, AS HE LOOSENED THE TIE THAT WAS BEGINNING TO FEEL LIKE NOTHING SO MUCH AS A NOOSE AROUND HIS SUDDENLY-VULNERABLE FEELING THROAT. HE EVEN THOUGHT HE HEARD HIMSELF SCREAM, BUT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL OVER THE DEAFENING CARNAGE.

THE LIGHT FROM THE STAGE WAS BECOMING UNBEARABLY BRIGHT AS THE SMELL OF SULPHER BEGAN TO ASSAIL HIS NOSTRILS, CAUSING HIS STOMACH TO ROLL AND TOSS REBELLIOUSLY.
AAAAAAHHH!!
HELP!
JEESUS!

AS THE HOUSE LIGHTS MERCIFULLY FLICKERED INTO OBLIVION...
WELCOME TO THE TOAD THEATER! IT'S A HAND-PICKED CROWD TONIGHT. THE ADS FOR THIS SHOW WERE AIMED AT, WELL, A SPECIFIC AUDIENCE. THE PUBLIC AT LARGE MERELY SAW A PHONE-SEX AD, BUT THE SPECIALLY CHOSEN CAUGHT OUR OWN TICKET PROMO! THIS ONE'S FOR YOU, FOLKS, OUR BIGGEST SUPPORTERS. EVERYONE WHO PREYS MERCILESSLY ON OTHERS AND FEEDS ON THE WEAK IN ORDER TO SURVIVE...
...WE SALUTE YOU! WELCOME TO OUR BIGGEST RECRUITMENT DRIVE SINCE ALTAMONT! WE NEED NEW BLOOD, SO WITHOUT FURTHER ADO...
I GIVE YOU... THE UNDERWORLD!!
IT WAS A HELL OF A SHOW, AND ERIK HAD HIS OWN FRONT-ROW ONE-WAY TICKET... RIGHT UP UNTIL THE END.

TESLA ROCKOMICS™ MINI-BIO

STORY: JAY ALLEN SANFORD
ART & LETTERS: MIKE SAGARA

11

MY FUZZY JOURNAL

MY FUZZY JOURNAL

CITY ~~KIDD~~ RULES
CITY TESLA

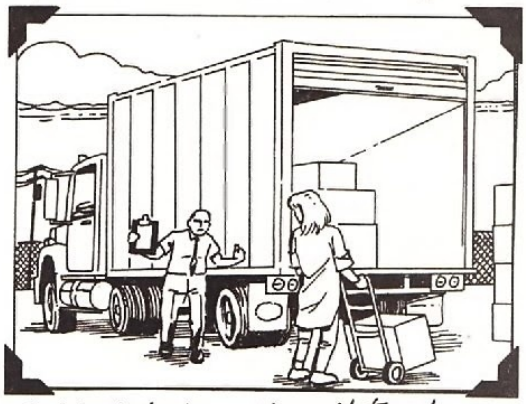
PROPERTY OF Jeff Keith

TESLA, NIKOLA
(1856 - 1943)

Electrical inventor, born at Smiljan, Lika. Invented telephone repeater. Became U.S. resident in 1884, worked with Thomas Edison. Other inventions and discoveries include: bladeless turbine, system of arc (fluorescent) lighting, Tesla motor and rotating magnetic fields (the basis of all alternating current power transmission), electric generators, transformers and magnifying transmitter (wireless). Was credited in 1943, through U.S. Supreme Court case, as true inventor of radio. Claimed in his later years to invent a "death beam" capable of annihilating a million soldiers instantly.

-JAS, Ph.D.

7/20/83: I'm so sick of the Georgetown rut. I thought life in California was supposed to be exciting?! I hate my job even worse. Sometimes, I just wish that I could play guitar in a band, so I could blow this berg. Ever since I went to my first concert in '78 (Van Halen, AC/DC, Aerosmith - *WOWSA!*), I've thought about being a rocker. There's a hot band in Sacramento, CITY KIDD, and I hear they need a new singer. If I had some equipment (or nerve!), I'd try out.



Still driving the ol' truck from 8 to 5.

7/22/83: Talked on the phone to a couple of guys in City Kidd. Brian Wheat plays bass and is into McCartney and Page. The guitarist is Frank Hannon, a Hendrix freak (yeah!). They used to play high school dances and keg parties (when they were called EARTHSHAKER), but now they mainly work clubs. They're all into Zep and Humble Pie. I told 'em that all I know on guitar is some stuff I learned from a how-to book last year (I was 23! Late bloomer). They said "Cool, we mainly need a singer anyway." I audition on Thursday.

7/29/83: I thought I blew it for sure! At the audition, I got too close to their monitors and the things started squealing like horny cats, and I couldn't remember the lyrics to those Stones songs! Frank said not to worry, I'd made the grade (The other guys didn't look so sure). Our first gig is gonna be Summerfest, in Boise Idaho (Potatoland!).

1/3/84: Been so busy lately! Frank brought in a friend of his, Tommy Skeoch (The *ch* is silent), and now we have *two* hot guitarists!! Some Japanese promoter has landed us a gig in...get this...GUAM! We're doing a 3-month residency at a military club called The Pescador.

Tommy (Guitar) Frank (Guitar) Brian (Bass) Me! (?)
*The drummer's out back--barfing!

5/12/84: Returned from Guam with a shitload of original songs we wrote (I did lyrics). We're playing a lot of Sacramento clubs again, like the Oasis Ballroom. We have a new drummer now, too--Troy Luccketta. Thinking about an offer we've had to play in LA, at the Country Club and The Troubador!

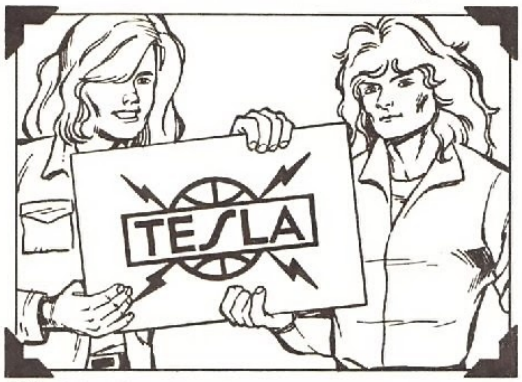
12/4/84: Lotsa label reps in LA! Ronnie Montrose (Montrose, man! The coolest 70's band) actually came backstage to tell us we were great! He suggested we do a cover of a classic rocker like "Little Suzi" and practically *begged* us to let him produce it as a demo! Far-fucking out.

Onstage, with Tommy, in Guam! (The Club used to be a grocery store)

8/10/85: Not much time to keep up this journal. Geffen is interested in us!! Yahoo!! They asked us if we could come up with some new songs and, man, we wrote ten tunes in two weeks. They liked 'em, and they liked Ronnie's demo, and it looks like we're gonna record soon... ROCK AND ROLL!

Troy snapped this pic of me with Geffen rep--I look like a nervous dork!

Tommy and Frank hold up new banner--COOL!!



3/2/86: Finally fired our old managers... all they wanted to hear was 3-minute pop songs. Hired Cliff Bernstein. Oh, yeah, and we changed our ***name***, too!

We're called TESLA We named

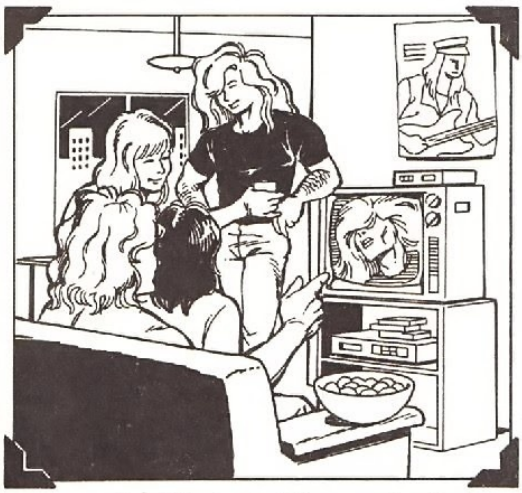
ourselves after the guy who invented radio (not Marconi). After all, without radio, nobody would be able to rock and roll! Nobody would be making singles 'cause nobody would play 'em! ***We'll*** be doing our ***own*** recording, soon!! I can't wait (I quit my job...for good!)

RAD, MAN!

11/18/86: Wow, we're almost finished with the album. It's ***hot*** (and not just our moms think so--Geffen is fired up about us). We decided to call it "Mechanical Resonance" after Nikola Tesla's theory about a force that can split the Earth in two. Hey, like we're the professors of Rock! "Blinded by Science" - Album to be released next month. Too cool!

Me, in studio (wotta pro, huh?)

2/8/87: Can't believe album went fucking gold!! Our first time out the gate--800,000 copies! MTV has been playing "Modern Day Cowboy." Management wants us to go on tour, but only if we can get arena-sized gigs. Frank took a job as a trash hauler for a construction company to make ends meet, and the rest of us are just sittin on our hands watching Julie Brown (sizzle!) play our video! Surreal...



Laffin' at Tommy's shaggy dog hair on MTV video.

WHERE'S OUR MONEY? WE'RE STILL POOR!

Onstage in New Haven--Lookit the grungy streetclothes! And we opened for Diamond Dave!

3/5/87: Got a call to be ready in ***four days*** to open for **DAVID LEE ROTH!** ALL RIGHT!! We opened up in New Haven Connecticut (The place rocked hardy). Wotta gig, wotta night, wotta life! ***TESLA RULES!***

ROCK & ROLL

3/27/87: Things are happenin'! Played Long Beach Arena with Alice Cooper. Ted Nugent and Gene Simmons came backstage to party (and party!). We've got three singles out... "Little Suzi," "Modern Day Cowboy" and "Rock Me to the Top." Next month, we're playing The World Series of Rock, in Wisconsin, with Poison, White Lion, Winger (who?), and The Bulletboys.

Backstage with Nugent and Simmons --Lookit the scenery (I love Rock & Roll!)

Giving Steve Tyler a Teslafied memento.

7/30/87: Opened some Motley Crue shows and played Texxas Jam (82,000 people!) with Whitesnake, Poison and veteran cosmic rockers Aerosmith! I actually got to hang out with Steve Tyler! None of us feel like rock stars yet (and we sure don't **dress** like rock stars, according to Steve), but 82,000 cheering dudes and babes can't be wrong (can they?)

9/20/87: I fucking lost my voice... at a hometown gig in Sacramento! I got over it quick, but it was scary for awhile. We're goin' on tour soon with Def Leppard, and we're hoping to close a deal on European and Japanese tours.

Sleeping on the bus... again!

Back in Sacramento (arrived 3am -- club just closed up for the night.

4/19/88: We kicked overseas ass! Sold out London Marquee Club, did two months in Japan, put out an EP in England. Rockin' the globe, man! Management wants new songs, so we're goin' back to Sacramento for awhile to write. We feel real lucky to be with Geffen. They're hip -- they carry Guns n' Roses, Aerosmith (yeah!), Whitesnake (ZZZZZZ), and our managers also rep for Leppard, Metallica, Queensryche and Dokken (who some people say we sound like... NAW). Whew! We're on the all-star team!

12/16/88: Spent almost 8 months (Seemed like years...how does Pink Floyd *do* it?) in Bearsville Studio (Woodstock N.Y.) recording. Frank got married while we were up there! We decided to call the new album "The Great Radio Controversy" after Nikola Tesla's landmark court case (The guy croaked right after!). Just call us Nikola's P.R. firm!

Frank's wedding (The poor lovestruck fool!)

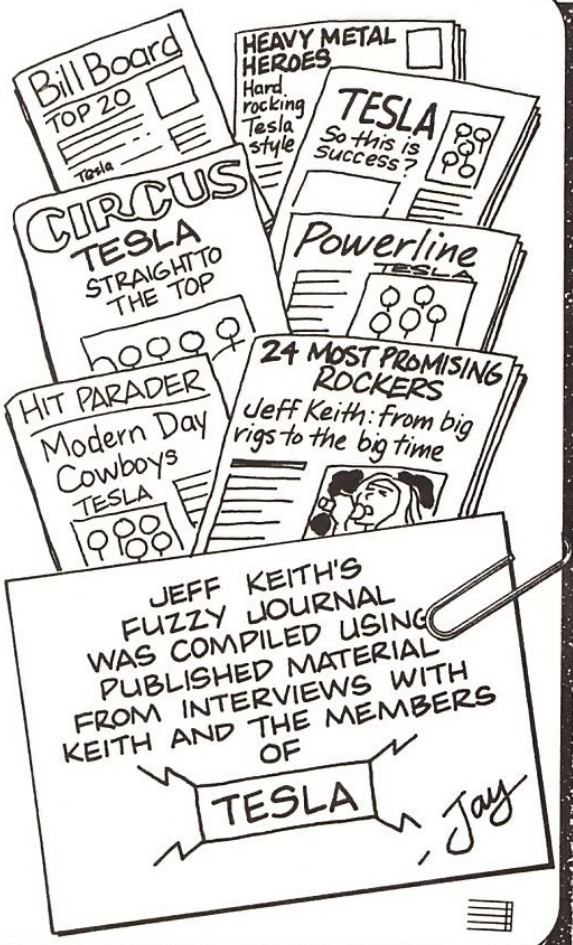
1/27/89: Record is out in stores, man, and the buzz is even better than the first time! We rocked harder, put more guitars up front... the first single is "Hang Tough." We're chompin' at the bit for a headline tour, but the timing's not right yet. We're opening for Poison now. Cliff (Bernstein, manager) says sales are lookin' good already on "Radio Controversy."

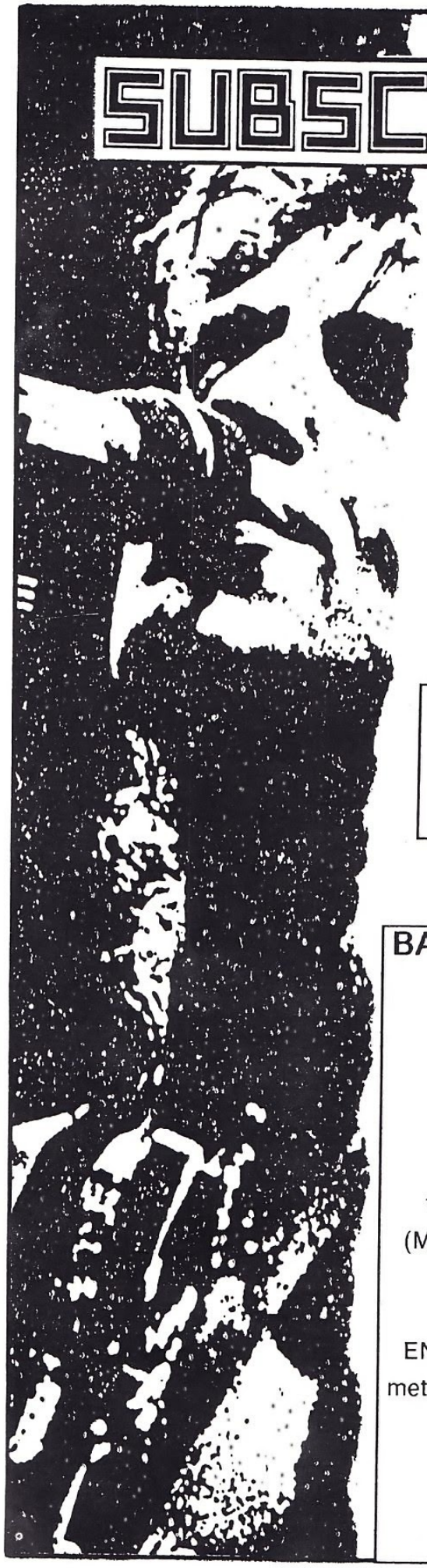
Jamming with C.C. Deville (Sound check, San Diego)

7/5/89: WE DID IT!!! We're beginning the first-ever official headlining TESLA TOUR!!

"Radio Controversy" is in the American top 20! Look, ma, we're genuine ROCK STARS (maybe I should finally buy some new jeans... NAW).

Bret Michaels (Poison) wishes us good luck on our headlining tour!





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